Each year, the President of the United States recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve.

The 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll includes three Special Focus Area categories that are aligned with the President’s education and innovation priorities: Early Childhood Education, the Promise Neighborhoods Model, and Summer Learning.

**Innovation in Early Childhood Education** is intended to improve educational outcomes for young children (birth through 3rd grade) by enhancing the quality of early learning programs for high-need students. Colleges or universities submitting applications in this category must use innovative practices and strategies to improve young children’s school readiness.

Moreover, applications in this category should illustrate how institutions are building capacity in community-based preschools and daycares. Finally, such applications can also show how the applicant’s institution is helping to develop teacher certification, curricula, and training for early childhood programs.

Emphasizing community outcomes in addition to output indicators should be done by reporting on how your service helps young children learn more, and learn better. Numbers of children served or classrooms reached are only part of the story.

Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, the school’s commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service.

**To Apply**

Applicants should demonstrate how their efforts help young children transition between early learning programs and preschool or primary school. For example, applicants can describe how their service activities help communities improve the readiness of children, especially low-income youth, to enter school. Project descriptions may explain strategies and activities that help schools reduce the achievement gap by providing extended, enriched, and intensive social, emotional, and academic learning experiences for young children. Strong applications will discuss the use of assessment and evaluation to improve their service interventions and provide credible evidence as well as measurable results.
Eligibility
All accredited degree-granting colleges and universities in the United States are eligible and encouraged to apply. Any college or university participating in the Federal Work-Study (FWS) program must meet the statutory 7% minimum FWS community service requirement for the most recent available school year. Previous applicants must re-apply each year.

The deadline for the 2013 Honor Roll submissions is November 29, 2012.

The winners will be announced at the American Council on Education (ACE) Conference, March 2-5, 2013, in Washington, DC.

Award Levels
Of the institutions that are admitted to the Honor Roll, some receive “With Distinction” honors and six are selected to receive the Presidential Award, the highest federal recognition an institution can receive for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.

- **The General Community Service Presidential Awards** will be presented to three institutions that reflect the best practices of community service and service-learning, such as long-term campus-community partnerships and measurable community outcomes as a result of their service.

- **The Special Focus Area Presidential Awards** will be presented to three institutions that best demonstrate success in the key areas of the President’s service and education plan: exemplifying and advancing the innovation in early childhood education partnerships; work in the Promise Neighborhoods model; and service that supports summer learning.

- **With Distinction**: The Honor Roll’s “With Distinction” recognition will be given to those applicants that display strong levels of institutional commitment, provide a compelling case for partnerships that produce measurable impact in the community, and have a Federal Work-Study community service percentage of 15% or above.

- **Honor Roll**: Institutions will be admitted to the Honor Roll that demonstrate relevant and meaningful service and achieve measurable impacts in the community. Institutions participating in the Federal Work Study program must meet the statutory 7% minimum FWS community service requirement to be admitted to the Honor Roll.

Further Information
For information, visit [http://NationalService.gov/HonorRoll](http://NationalService.gov/HonorRoll)

Applications must be submitted electronically via the online application system. To apply to be on the Honor Roll visit: [http://myproject.nationalservice.gov/honorroll/](http://myproject.nationalservice.gov/honorroll/)

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